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Publications Reviewed

A History of the Game Birds, Wild-Fowl and Shore Birds of Massachusetts and adjacent states including those used for food which have disappeared since the settlement of the country, and those which are now hunted for food or sport, with observations on their former abundance and recent decrease in numbers; also the means for conserving those still in existence. By Edward Howe Forbush, State Ornithologist of Massachusetts. Illustrated with Drawings by W. I. Beechcroft and the Author, and Photographs by Herbert K. Job and Others. Issued by the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture. By Authority of the Legislature, 1912.

"This volume is intended to fill a place heretofore unfulfilled, in at least two respects, by any American work. The former abundance and later decrease of the migratory game birds of eastern North America have been studied and narrated at length for the first time, and the histories of the food species of New England which have been exterminated since the settlement of the country have been brought together. This has been done with a purpose.

"Whenever legislation for the protection of shore birds or wild-fowl has been attempted in the Maritime States of the Atlantic seaboard, certain interested individuals have come forward to oppose it, with the plea that these birds are not decreasing in numbers, but, instead, are increasing, and that they need no further protection. Some admit that certain species are decreasing, but argue that shooting is not responsible for this condition.

"The object of the investigation on which this volume is based was to secure information from historical and ornithological works, and from ornithologists, sportsmen and gunners, regarding the increase or decrease of the birds which are hunted for food or sport.

"The report is published with the intention, first, to show the former abundance of resident and migratory game birds in America and their subsequent decrease in numbers; second, to furnish gunners and others with the means of identifying game birds, that the people may recognize the different species and thus fit themselves to observe protective laws; and third, to demonstrate how the birds may be conserved.

"In the introduction an attempt is made to narrate briefly the history of the decrease of resident and migratory game birds along the Atlantic seaboard. Part I continues this history, but particularizes and localizes by taking up separately each individual species that has been recorded from Massachusetts and nearby states. Part II groups together the histories of the species utilized as

food which have disappeared from New England since the settlement of the country, and exhibits the causes that brought about the destruction of these species, Part III analyzes the causes of the decrease of the species of game birds, wild-fowl and shore birds that are still extant, and indicates how they may be conserved and how depleted areas may be restocked with certain species."

There are 36 plates, exclusive of the colored frontispiece of the discussion as food, and the gun makers who wish a market for their wares, but he warns them that at the present rate of decrease it will be only a short time until there will be none of these birds to furnish sport or food. The conservation of these birds can be realized by the enforcement of, or better, the observance of laws, state or federal, making closed seasons, especially in spring, closed seasons over a number of years for such species as are now nearly extinct, reservations where the birds may breed unmolested, and the artificial propagation of large numbers. It is a most timely book which has large value the country over, since a great deal of data is given not confined to New England. A great deal of information is here brought together for the first time. L. J.

The Experimental Method of Testing the Efficiency of Warning and Cryptic Coloration in Protecting Animals from their Enemies. By W. L. McAtee. From the Proceedings of The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, June, 1912. Issued September 6, 1912.

The thoroughness with which Mr. McAtee goes into the subject before reaching his conclusions may best be shown by transcribing the table of contents of this paper.

Introduction. Experiments with Invertebrates (chiefly Insects). Experiments with Vertebrates: Fishes; Amphibia, in Countries other than the United States, In the United States — Toads, Frogs, Salamanders. Reptiles: Experiments in Asia, Experiments in Upland Plover, 82 cuts and 26 figures in the text. There are 622 pages including a list of contributions and an excellent index.

The species mentioned as having become extinct are Great Auk, Labrador Duck, Eskimo Curlew, and Passenger Pigeon. The extirpated species given are Trumpeter Swan, Whooping Crane, Sandhill Crane, and Wild Turkey. These furnish concrete illustrations of what may be expected with many of our game birds unless something is done to check their steady decrease.

In the third part of the book Mr. Forbush recognizes and discusses at length the legitimate claims of the sportsman, the pot-hunter, and the public who wish to continue to use the birds under